

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Montana

January 2012

SENATE EDUCATION

DEAR LORD

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MT BOAT IS SO SMALL

Children's Defense Fund

223,486 children live in Montana:

- 179,958 are White, non-Hispanic
- 1,264 are Black
- 10,829 are Hispanic
- 1,204 are Asian
- 21,284 are American Indian/Alaska Native
- 10,870 are two or more races

In Montana:

- A child is abused or neglected every 6 hours.
- A child dies before his or her first birthday every 4 days.

Montana Ranks:*

- 14th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
Best state is South Dakota; worst state is Mississippi
- 25th among states in its infant mortality rate.
Best state is New Hampshire; worst is the District of Columbia
- 26th among states in per pupil expenditures.
The District of Columbia is best; Utah is the worst state
- [*1st represents the best state for children and 51st represents the worst state for children in the country]

Child Poverty in Montana

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	43,818 (20.1%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	20,975 (9.6%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	8,634
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$504

Child Health in Montana

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	19,041 (8.8%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	25,231
CHIP eligibility: 250 percent of federal poverty (\$57,625 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	70,175
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	55.0%
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	29.7%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	78.9%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	39.6%

Child Hunger in Montana

Number of children who receive SNAP (food stamps)	48,000
Percent of eligible persons who receive SNAP (food stamps)	65%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	87,622
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	7,034
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	20,164

Early Childhood Development in Montana

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	64.6%
Number of children served by Head Start	5,414
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	4,000
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$7,800
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	14.9%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	22.1%

Education in Montana

Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$10,189
Percent of public school fourth graders:	
unable to read at grade level	64.3%
unable to do math at grade level	54.7%
Percent of public school eighth graders:	
unable to read at grade level	58.5%
unable to do math at grade level	54.4%
Number of 16- to 19-year-olds who have dropped out of high school	3,560

Child Welfare in Montana

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	1,383
Number of children in foster care	1,723
Number of children adopted from foster care	191
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	6,931

Youth at Risk in Montana

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	6.3%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	82.0%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	25.1%
Number of juvenile arrests	5,552
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	161
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	3.48
Number of children and teens killed by firearms in homicides	n/a
Number of children and teens killed by firearms in suicides	n/a

This fact sheet contains the most recent data as of January 26, 2012.
For data sources and methodological notes, please visit: www.childrensdefense.org/cits.

For more information on the state of America's children contact:

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